

REMARKS

Claims 12-21 are now pending in the application. Claim 1-11 have been cancelled and Claims 12-21 have been added. Basis for these new claims are found throughout the application as originally filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider these new claims and the remarks contained herein.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 5 is objected to for the informality on Line 3. Claim 5 has been cancelled, thereby rendering this objection moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Minaminoto (JP 2000-090529A). Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Tuchiya (US 7,107,603).

It is believed that the claims as originally filed are patentably distinct over these references. Nonetheless, to expedite prosecution of this application, Claims 1-4 have been cancelled, thereby rendering these rejections moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 5-11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has cancelled Claims 5-11 and submits new Claims 12-21 for the Examiner's consideration. More specifically, independent claims 12, 13, 14 and 15 corresponding to objected-to claims 5, 6, 7 and 8, respectively. Dependent claims 16-21

correspond to previous claims 2, 3, 4, 9, and 11, respectively. Thus, each of the new claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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